

The ramp to his E9 Explorer “The Flamboyant Mercorn MKII” opened amidst the howling winds and strong snowfall.

Hooded, Aru entered with some difficulty, struggling to even step forward. He pressed the button to close the ramp, and only after it was fully sealed, did he take his jacket off and leaned against the wall.

“How in the karks name do these people live here!” he said. Law was breathing hard just from walking a short distance of a dozen meters from the only Cantina in Zainab back to his ship.

He heard a deep growl, coming from one of the vehicle holds, where he kept Kaka, his Bantha.

He went for the Beast and hugged it tight. The warmth was comforting and relaxing. “I could sleep here all day long.” he claimed, to which Kaka responded with a heavy breathing out of its nostrils.

One of the alarms in the ship went off, prompting Aru to climb to the main level. There, he found Tinker, his R2 unit, fiddling with the ship’s electrical components. A rapid succession of high and low beeps was enough to put his Master up to speed on what was going on.

“Are you sure about that?” Law asked, making his way down the long corridor of his ship that led to the cockpit.

“What’s going on?” Sage asked from the mess hall. He had been waiting on some Porg wings to finish frying, so he could feast on them, something Plee, the resident Porg, wasn’t too happy about.

“We’re getting a strange signal from the frozen waste.” Aru explained. “Tinker says it’s the same signal of my lost Z-95, but I’m not so sure about that.”

“The Idiot’s Array?” Sage questioned.

“Yes! Why would it be all the way here? It makes no sense.”

Tinker beeped angrily, as if offended by his master’s distrust.

“All right, all right tin can! We’ll check it out.”

The Jedi fired up the Mercorn’s engines and prepared for takeoff.

*How did it end up there? Last time I heard of it she still had it...*

With the weather as bad as it was, tracking the exact location of the signal was near impossible. All they could manage to do was get near it in a three kilometer radius.

Aru landed the E9-Explorer the best he could on the icy plains, choosing what seemed the most stable piece of land available. He then geared up for the cold and saddled Kaka.

“I’m gonna need you on this one pal. This isn’t quite like Tatooine I’m afraid.”

The two of them set out and quickly disappeared into the mist and snowfall.

Aru had fashioned a quick pinpoint radar that would help him get a better signal of whatever was out there waiting for him.

After what seemed like an eternity, the radar was beeping quickly and loudly. They were getting close.

Struggling to see, Aru wiped his goggles. It was then that he noticed a silhouette in the distance. Steering Kaka in that direction made it clearer as they got closer.

“That’s a ship!” Aru yelled in the snow. Not that anyone was listening anyways, besides his Bantha.

They finally reached the ship. Law couldn’t believe what he was seeing. It was full of dents and scratches, but some paint was still visible. Black and orange mostly. And on the wings, as clear as he remembered, the numbers “023”.

“My first ship...” he sighed.

He looked inside and saw her. His heart sank and skipped several beats. He felt sick.

“A... Ala... Alana...” he blurted.